

AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1967

Medical Officer of Health - G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

No particular health problems arose during the year to cause concern to the Health Department.

The statistics remained satisfactory. These will be found later in the Report. The numbers involved in the tables are small and it is difficult to draw any conclusions that are significant from them. The pattern has remained the same for several years and indicates a satisfactory state of affairs.

During the year there were 98 births, compared with 83 in 1966. This gave an adjusted birth rate of 15.2 per 1,000 population. The figure for England and Wales as a whole was a little higher, namely 17.2.

There were 62 deaths, compared with 70 in 1966, the death rate being lower than that of England and Wales. Malignant disease caused 10 deaths and vascular lesions of the central nervous system caused 15 deaths. There were fewer deaths from coronary disease and angina - being 11, compared with 20 in 1966, but this is probably not of any great significance. There were no deaths due to childbirth. One child under the age of four weeks died from congenital malformations. Other causes of death remained the same as in previous years.

Throughout the County there has been an increase in the numbers of children being looked after away from home. The Local Authority is required, under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, to register persons and premises where children are looked after during a substantial part of the day. The Act ensures that the premises are suitable and the accommodation adequate. Sufficient toilets and washing facilities must be provided. The number of children accommodated is restricted according to the floor space available and the number of staff in attendance. Standards are laid down and care is taken to see that they are not abused. By means of legislation the Local Authority is able to exert control and be satisfied that the health and safety of the children are not endangered.

I am grateful to you, Mr.Chairman, and to the Members of the Council for your interest and encouragement in the work of the Department and to all members of the staff for their loyal support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

G.R.THORPE,

Medical Officer of Health.



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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1967

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor,
Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager. - J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area (Census 1961) 1,904 Acres.

Population -

Census for 1961 3,854

Registrar General's estimate of
home population, mid year 1967.. .. 4,750

Number of inhabited houses 1,671

Rateable Value £181,541

Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.68) £710

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Live Births					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	56	40	96
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Totals			..	..	<u>57</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>98</u>
Crude Birth Rate	..	..	..	20.6	per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Birth Rate		..	..	15.2	"		
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.74)							
As compared with -							
Average for last five years	..			21.0	per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire		..	..	19.0	"		
Rate for England and Wales		..	..	17.2	"		

Still Births

<u>Still Births</u>					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals			..	..	1	-	1
Still Birth Rate	..	..	..	10.0	per 1,000 live and still births		
As compared with -							
Average for last five years			..	13.2	"		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..		..	12.3	"		
Rate for England and Wales			..	14.8	"		

Deaths

Deaths				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	..	..	..	24	22	46
Transferred into the District	..	..	..	8	10	18
Transferred from the District	..	..	..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	..	..	..	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>62</u>
Crude Death Rate	..	..	..	13.1 per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Death Rate	..	..	..	7.2	"	
(The comparability factor for the District being 0.55)						
As compared with -						
Average for last five years	..	..	..	13.7 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..	..	9.2	"	
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	11.2	"	

Deaths of Infants under One Year

Deaths of Infants under One Year					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	..	..	..	..	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Infant Mortality Rate					10.0 per 1,000 related live births		
As compared with -							
Average of last five years	..			6.7		"	
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		14.5		"	
Rate for England and Wales	..			19.0		"	

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

<u>Maternal Mortality</u>						
Maternal Mortality	..	..	Nil	per 1,000 live and still births		
As compared with -						
Average of last five years	..	..	Nil	per 1,000 total (live and still		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..	0.17	" births)		

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967

Cause of Death	Total All Ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		1 -		5 -		15 -		25 -		35 -		45 -		55 -		65 -		75 and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1																				1		
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-																					1	
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1																1						
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	5																		1	2	3	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	7																						
18 Coronary disease, angina	7	4											1						1		2	3	5	4
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1																				1		3	3
20 Other heart disease	6	4																			1			
21 Other circulatory disease	-	2																						
23 Pneumonia	2	2															1						1	2
24 Bronchitis	-	1																					1	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-																					1	-
31 Congenital malformations	1	-		1																				
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	3																	1					1
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	-																	1					
35 Suicide	-	1																1						
Totals	31	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	2	7	8	18	18

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA
Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council

Ambulance Service.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council covers the full twenty-four hours and satisfactorily meets the needs of the area.

In addition to the transport of emergency cases, ambulance or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from hospitals or clinics, when attendance is necessary for medical treatment.

The Ambulance Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service
Health Visiting Service

Chief Nursing Officer: Miss W. Frost,
Health Department, Phoenix Chambers,
High Street, Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 51651.

The Ampthill Urban District is satisfactorily covered by Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting personnel, who operate under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer.

Home Help Service

Organiser: Mrs. V.M. Van Berckelaer,
Medical Centre, Union Street,
Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 52207.

Home helps are provided for households where assistance is needed. The amount of help given varies according to the needs of the individual assisted.

Child Welfare Clinic

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Friday afternoons - weekly.

Immunisation Clinic

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Friday mornings - four weekly.

5. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

The water supply of the District is the responsibility of the Bedfordshire Water Board.

Typical Result of Chemical Examination of

<u>Sample of Treated Water</u>					
<u>Treated water leaving Waterworks</u>					<u>Clophill</u>
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction (pH)	..	..	...	..	8.0
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per cc at 20°C)	..	..	..	..	430
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (Free and Saline Ammonia)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	Nil
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	..	..	..	Trace
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	28
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	124
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	100
Total Hardness	..	..	..	..	224
Calcium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	176
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	48
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 26.7°C	..	..	..	..	Nil
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	0.1
Lead, Zinc, Copper	..	..	..	..	None found
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	14
Potassium as K	..	..	..	..	3
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	..	None found
Fluorine as F	..	..	..	..	0.30
Silica (Molybdate reactive)	..	..	..	..	22

(Results in parts per million)

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

The majority of the reports on samples of effluent taken during the year were unsatisfactory, particularly with regard to solids in suspension. Consideration is being given to extensions of the Works which will depend upon the future estimated population of the district which has still to be finalised.

(c) Rivers and Streams

No serious pollution took place during the year within the district.

(d) Cesspools, Pail Closets

Only 36 domestic properties are now served by Cesspool or Septic Tank installations, and two by pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing

Collection and Disposal of Refuse continues satisfactorily, but again it has not been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection due to sickness amongst staff and the inability to attract and maintain a suitable labour force.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage

It is still not possible to salvage wastepaper, due to labour difficulties and the economic state of the market does not make this a worthwhile proposition for this Authority.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	..	..	3
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	-
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	..	..	4
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	..	..	6
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	..	..	3
Premises with defective floors	..	..	2
Dirty Premises	..	..	1
Dangerous structure	..	..	1
Accumulations of offensive matter	..	..	1
Unsound meat and other foods	..	..	5
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease	..	..	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	..	..	72
Other dilapidations	..	..	-
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	-
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	22
Number of defective premises	..	..	18

(h) Shops and Offices.

No statutory action was taken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites, etc.

No caravans or moveable dwellings were licensed and no sites for moveable dwellings or camping are situated within the district.

(j) Smoke Abatement.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation (Not rodent control)

No treatments were necessary.

6. HOUSING

The contract at Willow Way was completed during July for the erection of 55 Council dwellings and garages.

Fifty-six private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Oliver Street, Warren Farm and Ampthill House Estates.

The following Plans were approved under Building Regulations -

9	Dwellings and Garages
17	Alterations to Business Premises
27	Alterations to Domestic Premises
16	Private Garages
3	Conservatories
2	Carports
1	Change of User
4	Sports Pavilions etc.

Town and Country Planning

79 Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 54 were approved, 12 refused, 8 withdrawn, 4 deferred and one was time expired.

Two Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, one of which was approved and one refused.

7. RODENT CONTROL

The Council has continued to employ the retired Operator on a part-time basis, which has proved most satisfactory.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors	12	21
2. Bakers and Confectioners	8	19
3. Grocers	4	12
4. Fishmongers	1	5
5. General Stores	9	24
6. Butchers	5	21
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	4
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	4	11
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	17
2. Industrial Canteens	-	-
3. School Canteens	2	9
4. Hotels	1	5
5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops	1	4
7. Others	-	-
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	21
2. Meat pie and cooker meat makers	5	21
3. Bakehouses	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

10 lbs. Imported Ox Kidneys
180 lbs. Imported Beef
10 lbs. Imported Lambs Livers
26 lbs. Tinned Foods

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the Butchers Shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five Butchers Shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations

Twelve premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which are licensed to sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the Regulations were being complied with.

9. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Protection against infectious disease is given by means of immunisation. The diseases concerned are whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis. Immunisation takes place at Welfare Clinics and is usually given when the baby is three months old. Booster doses are given a year later and again just before entering school at five years. Protection against measles will be available in 1968.

The older school children are offered protection against tuberculosis by means of B.C.G.

During the year 78 cases of measles were notified and 2 cases of scarlet fever. One case of dysentery was also notified. Occasional cases of food poisoning occur, which usually clear up quickly. It is difficult to trace the cause of these cases because usually no samples of food are available for testing when the patient develops symptoms. Many of the cases are due to contamination of perfectly wholesome food. All utensils used in preparing and cooking food must be quite clean and personal cleanliness is of the utmost importance. Food premises are regularly inspected and samples of food for sale are analysed.

Notification by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Measles	43	33	2	78	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	1	-

Three new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. A total of nine cases remained on the register at the end of the year.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

Pulmonary

Male 6
Female 1

Non-Pulmonary

Male -
Female 2

Mass Radiography

A Mobile Unit visits The Sands, Woburn Street, Ampthill, once each week on Thursday, from 12.00 to 12.15 p.m. and during this time patients sent by their Doctors can quickly be x-rayed.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during the year.

11. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Public Health Act 1936. Section 85

Most of these cases are school children with verminous heads. When discovered they are treated by the School Nurses as a routine matter.

12. PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	12		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	41		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding outworkers premises.	11	31		
Total	33	84		

* Institutions, Section 124, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp:	Number of cases in w which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to utwork)					
Total	3	3			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work.	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
